

I'm writing to complain about the recent morning show on G105 -- a Clear Channel-owned station in Raleigh, NC -- aired during Sept 22- 23 of this year. I understand that the radio show hosts, Bob and Madison, spent a considerable amount of time complaining about bicyclists sharing the road with motorists. They shared stories of how cyclists have been deliberately injured by motorists, and goaded listeners to call in and share their own stories on how they've either hit or threatened cyclists while driving in the Triangle area. In short, they advocated violence, requesting listeners to either push cyclists off the road with their vehicles, or to toss objects at cyclists.

As an avid cyclist, I find this extremely worrisome. While Bob & Madison have a reputation for this type of sophomoric, tasteless, and without humorless action, I believe this may constitute grounds for legal action against Clear Channel Communications and its wholly-owned stations like G105 if I am ever struck by a vehicle while riding responsibly in the listening area.

G105 deliberately instigated and fostered an hateful environment and advocated motorists use violent acts against cyclists. It is apparent that the parent corporation, Clear Channel Communications, has tacitly approved of this type of programming based on this recurring theme in the Houston and Cleveland markets. While action has been taken in Cleveland the costs obviously were not high enough to warrant system wide action. Therefore, I would propose that the FCC step in to remedy the situation. As a starting point I believe that Clear Channel should institute the same remedies that were recommended in Cleveland on a national basis.

These remedies included:

1. Run Public Service Announcements on all Clear Channel stations.
2. Donate money (amount to be determined) to local cycling causes in each market based on the market size.
3. Help with programs and events such as Safe Routes to School and public safety education.
4. Support and promote the America Bikes agenda with national and local politicians.
5. Require a public apology and community service project for DJ's that promote any activity that will harm any group of people.

In closing, I would ask you to consider the actions that would be taken if this same programming had been broadcast substituting for the targeted group "African-American", "gay" or "Muslim". Would not the public be outraged? Would lawsuits abound? Would the FCC take immediate action? I think that all of these would, and should, occur. Why would the same not be true for cyclists?

I appreciate your taking the time to review my concerns and to initiate any action that the FCC may deem appropriate. It is obvious that Clear Channel has no intention of rectifying this problem on their own and that the power of the FCC can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Floyd G. Cook